



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2050

federal office; online signature collection

Purpose

Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to provide a secure, online petition signature collection system (system) for candidates running for the office of United States (U.S.) Senator or Representative in Congress beginning on January 1, 2017.

Background

Candidates for U.S. House, Senate, Presidential or federal offices must file a statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission when \$5,000 has been spent or received. To run for federal office, a person is required to turn in their nomination petitions and federal nomination paper with the SOS (azsos.gov).

To qualify for the office of U.S. Senator, a candidate must receive at least one-fourth of 1 percent, but no more than 10 percent, of the total number of qualified signers in the state. A candidate for U.S. Congress must receive at least one-half of 1 percent, but no more than 10 percent, of the total number of qualified signers in the candidate's district. A special election candidate running to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Congress requires at least one-fourth of 1 percent, but no more than 10 percent, of the total number of qualified signers in the candidate's district (A.R.S. § 16-322). Independent candidates must receive at least three percent of the total number of qualified "other" signers in the candidate's district (A.R.S. § 16-341).

Under Session Laws 2011, Ch. 332, Sec. 32, the SOS authorized a pilot system that permits qualified voters to sign a candidate's nomination petition and submit a \$5 contribution for Clean Elections Fund qualification. This only applies to candidates for statewide and legislative offices (A.R.S. § 16-316). According to the SOS website, the verification method requires a voter's driver license number or non-operating ID, first and last name and date of birth. This information is validated against the statewide voter registration database.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires the SOS to establish an online system for qualified electors to sign a nomination petition for candidates who run for the office of U.S. Senator or Congress.

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2. Requires the system to verify and authorize the qualified elector's identity and eligibility to sign a particular candidate's petition.
3. Permits a candidate to use this system to collect up to the minimum number of required nomination petition signatures.
4. Limits these provisions to candidates for office of U.S. Senator or Representative.
5. Becomes effective on January 1, 2017.

House Action

ELECT	2/1/16	DP	6-0-0
3rd Read	2/17/16		55-5-0

Prepared by Senate Research
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RH/SH/rf